

Thoughts From the Ruts.

EDITOR ADVOCATE:—I was riding to town the other day, and a portion of the road having been cut up, when muddy, was very rough. There was much jostling and shaking; the driver was very mad at the road; and while he fumed and snarled and made me more uncomfortable than the shaking Jid, my mind was filled with many thoughts from the fact that just on either side of us was a good smooth road, while we were being shaken up because the driver did not choose to turn out of the ruts perhaps he did not see. No matter; the ruts were not less rough because he was the more blind. I saw the smooth way and so found it all the more exasperating to be shook up in old ruts. I can stand a good deal of shaking when there is no help for it, but cannot bear it with one bit of patience when I once see the way out.

I wish I could recall to mind now all the thoughts that came to it during the brief space I was in those ruts. I thought of the poor, unthinking creatures who continue all their lives in ruts, because father or grandfather once went that way; and I thought if some of the old fathers could come once more among us they would say, "children, you are a disgrace to my memory; you do not improve the light and opportunities of your time as I did those of my time; the way to that better condition of peace on earth, good will toward men, is progressive; turn out of the old ruts, and seek and walk in the better way; the rightings of wrongs will ever consist in the breaking up of old systems and conditions, and will ever be a revolutionary process." Let us not, then, forget the revolutionary grandaires, but rather prove ourselves their worthy children by walking in the way of progress, never standing still; but as we go on in the way of light, and see the rottenness of the old system of things, let us rebel in a substantial way by putting our shoulder against errors, building and overturning again and again until we behold the perfectly-built system of brotherly love which alone has the right to remain. I have a neighbor just across the road—a good, unthinking republican. (I guess none of them do any thinking, except the fellows who are after the spoils.) The other day I was trying to tell him of the scheming, gambling, and general corruption practiced by the old parties, all of which he did not attempt to deny. He simply argued that the Populists in power would soon do the same, for the influence of money would soon influence and corrupt any man. How I pitied that man; for had he not confessed to his own sad condition? Find a man who will, if need be, give his life in defense of the principle of right, and he is always ready to ascribe to others his own mental qualities.

Now here is a significant fact to which I would call other's attention. It is this, that during the past eight years I have noticed that every old party man with whom I talked was in the same mental condition as my neighbor. Now I ask in all seriousness is it not time this reform movement was even farther advanced than it is, when men born and reared under the old system and condition of things become so much a part of the heartless, Christless system that they have no knowledge of the principle of truth in them? Then I think such a system is surely doomed, and he who works in the uprooting and overturning, is working for the good of humanity and doing God's service. I notice, too, that the old stand-ups will not read, that is, any more than the subsidized press

dishes up for them; and those of us who have been there know just what kind of misleading filthy truck that is. I knew if my neighbor would read the ADVOCATE for a few weeks he would become clothed in his right, which is his own mind. So I loaned him our paper, but he simply looks through "The Dead Line" to see how about Mr. Overton and what of Kate. The Christly teachings there he does not see. Those who have not within themselves a line of such teachings and knowledge of the possibility of such will not of course, look for them. There is hope of a man who is of a searching, inquiring mind, but when he thinks he knows and has the best that can be, there is no hope for him.

Why, said my neighbor, the rich always did lord it over the poor, and of course they always will; there never has been a better condition of things, and there never will be. There is enlightened reasoning for you from an old party stand-upper-would-be flea.

Think no more of the holy light of oppression's morn, which we have dreamed would end the night of darkest terror and oppression; be no more dazzled by the brilliancy of those Christly minds which have been in all ages the salt of the earth and a help to those who toiled under the oppressor's rod, ever pointing them to the beacon light of truth, which is the only real liberty from either mental or physical bondage. If only my neighbor could have been here in time he could have told Jesus there was no such thing as heaven within man, and that evil, and not good, was man's natural habitude.

Now, friends, let us arouse ourselves and be more zealous in this cause of Christ and humanity, not simply because it is to be in a heavenly condition to believe the beautiful prophecies of the Bible of the glorified condition of humanity on earth but because the spirit of truth teaches us not alone that such condition is possible, but that it is the heaven ordained and natural condition of God's children; and because we know for ourselves that the truth is all powerful and evil cannot always stand before it. The hydra-headed monster must eventually fall. It is as though it could already see the end approaching and was trying to do its worst.

I was told the other day that free trade is keeping thousands out of the Populist ranks. To such I would say, we need protection only against all forms of ignorance and error, and against such we would protect, not a small portion of, but the entire human race, by uncovering and driving from the earth all sorts of scheming greediness, and when the clearing out is all done, there will be on the earth a more Christly type of humanity, in which will be seen the image of their Maker, and they shall possess the earth in peace. You and I may not see this better time during our short stay in the flesh, but it is our duty to labor with that end in view; be not afraid of being called anarchist; meet often together; speak often to each other of these things; teach your children the truth, and get not into ruts.

NELLIE L. HALL.

Roseville, Kansas.

Notes by the Way.

EDITOR ADVOCATE:—Your typo made me say last week that our meeting at Larned was our last, when it should have read our best meeting. Why was it so? Simply because at Larned the Women's Alliance was and is a great factor in reform work there. They have one of the best, if not the best, Alliance in the state. Let me describe their hall, with its pictures and

clock on the wall, with its organ, carpet and comfortable chairs in one room, and the next room with five tables, each fifteen feet long and plenty of dishes and table clothes to spread the same; with their own cook stove and cooking utensils, all owned by these good women. They pay \$60 a year rent for the rooms. And how do they pay this, you ask? Why, when the county Alliance or any reform rally occurs in that city, they give a dinner, charging twenty cents for it. They gave over 300 meals the day we were there, so you see it is no wonder they have plenty of money for campaign purposes, or to secure lecturers, establish libraries or distribute reform literature.

Should any Alliance ladies wish to know more about the work of this Woman's Alliance, they can write Mrs. Laura E. Casey, Mrs. A. Goodner or Mrs. Mattie Fox, who are among the leaders of that Alliance.

The court house was crowded with the thinking men and women of Pawnee county to hear Brothers Hanna and Wardall. With the assistance of George Fell, your reporter secured 117 subscribers for the ADVOCATE, the best afternoon's work we have done so far.

You can depend on Pawnee giving an increased majority for reform. From Larned we went to Great Bend, and here too a large crowd greeted us and many friends bade us "God speed." Our next was at Lyons, Rice county, where we were royally entertained by Brother Hodgden and his good family. The men here seemed more intensely interested in our work than at any point yet visited. The meeting at Ellsworth numerically speaking was not a success, but otherwise was good. We are now in the Sixth district where Pope are thicker than the sands on the sea shore. More anon. O. W. HENDER.

What the Women Think Should Be Done.

The following resolution was passed at meeting of Woman's Progressive Political league of Topeka April 4:

WHEREAS, More than 300 newspapers of Kansas, representing the interests of all the political parties of the state, have, in reply to inquiries from the suffragists, signified their intention to support the pending amendment; and

WHEREAS, Experience has proven that the indorsement of an amendment by the several political platforms has greatly contributed to its success at the ballot box and was one of the causes which led to victory in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, The true way to win any good cause is to boldly advocate and declare for it; and as woman's suffrage is a political but not a partisan question; therefore,

Resolved, By the Woman's Progressive Political league of Topeka, that we earnestly request all newspapers of our state favorable to the enfranchisement of the women of Kansas, irrespective of party affiliations, to unitedly and decidedly advocate the insertion of suffrage plank in the respective political platforms, state and local.

A Problem—Who Will Solve It?

EDITOR ADVOCATE:—A is a large corporation, organized for the mutual benefit of its members. B is also a corporation. A needs a medium of exchange to do business with. B proposes to loan A \$100,000 on certain conditions, which are that B shall furnish to A \$100,000 in gold. A shall give his note or bond for the amount, bearing 4 per cent. interest per annum, and to continue for twenty or more years. A shall also issue to B 90 per cent. or \$90,000 in legal tender notes on which A is security. B shall pay a tax of 1 per cent. per annum to A on the notes so issued. A shall redeem those notes in gold on demand.

How much money has B really loaned to A, and what rate of interest does he receive on the amount?

A. L. RHODES.

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